

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-19, and 37-48 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 12, 14, 16-17, 37, and 41 have been amended. Claims 7, 15, 20-36, and 49-56 have been canceled without prejudice. Support for the amended claims can be found in the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by virtue of these amendments.

Page 8, lines 21-28 and page 9, lines 8-23 of the present specification were amended to identify reference characters (202) and (206) in Fig. 2. Therefore, Fig. 2 should be allowable.

Claim 3 was amended to depend from claim 2 as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-56 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alur (US6,581,044) in view of Want et al. (US6,008,727). These claim rejections are overcome as follows.

Embodiments in accordance with the present invention relate to systems and methods wherein a print terminal which is located in a user's home interacts with a remote certificate issuer system:

"An object of the present invention is to provide a certificate issuing system in which a certificate can be issued at an applicant's home or the like where no exclusive certificate issuing machine is located, and to provide a system in which the issued certificate can be verified." (Page 2, lines 6-11)

The independent claims also have been amended to recite, for example, "wherein said print terminal is located in a user's home and said certificate issuer system is located at a remote location away from said user's home." In contrast, Alur clearly describes a system that is to be used at a public location such as a park:

"FIG. 2 illustrates a system for authenticating a license 108 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. The system illustrated in FIG. 2 generally operates as follows. A user 102 presents license 108, which includes license number 110, and photo ID 209 to authenticator 202. Authenticator 202 can be any person responsible for authenticating license 108, such as a park ranger or a representative of a fish and game department of a local jurisdiction." (Column 4, lines 36-44)

Thus, in no sense can the system of the Alur patent be understood as intended for issuing a certificate in a user's home. Rather, the system of the Alur patent merely discloses printing and verifying a license number and license parameters in a public location.

Furthermore, Alur does not expressly disclose a microchip attached to a print form and microchip reading means for reading a microchip ID in a microchip attached to the print form. See for example, independent claim 1. The Alur patent does not teach or suggest a print terminal located in a user's home configured to print certificate data on a print form, wherein the print form further includes a microchip attached to the print form. In addition, the Alur patent does not teach or suggest a certificate issuer system located at a remote location away from said user's home configured to communicate with the home print terminal.

Combination of the Alur patent with the Want patent does nothing to supply this missing teaching. Specifically, the Want patent discloses a system for identifying multiple electronic tags, which may be attached to paper documents. There is no teaching or suggestion in the Want patent regarding issuing a certificate at an applicant's home.

Independent claims 1, 4, 12, 14, 16, 17, 37, 41, and 45 were amended to incorporate the distinction over the references, in that the present invention relates to systems and methods wherein a print terminal which is located in a user's home interacts with a remote certificate issuer system.

Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-19, and 37-48 are not obvious in view of the cited art. The Section 103 rejection of claims 1-56 is believed to be overcome.

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PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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